

Message Text

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----- 118279

R 160126Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053187

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, CH, US

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF CAB CHAIRMAN TIMM ON PRC

REFS: A) HONG KONG 2623

B) PEKING 0435

1. ON MARCH 4, 1974, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL AERO-
NAUTICS BOARD, ROBERT D. TIMM, ANNOUNCED THAT, AT THE
URGING OF SENATOR WARREN MAGNUSON, HE INTENDS TO GO TO THE
PRC TO SURVEY AVIATION AND AIRLINE REQUIREMENTS AND TO
MAKE DIRECT PERSONAL CONTACT WITH COUNTERPART CHINESE
OFFICIALS TO PREPARE THE CAB FOR RESUMPTION OF AIR SERV-
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ICES BETWEEN THE US AND PRC.

2. NEITHER TIMM'S STATEMENT NOR HIS TRAVEL PLANS HAD BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR THE NSC. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, STATEMENT HAS NOT BEEN NOTED IN US NEWSPAPERS. WE WERE UNAWARE THAT HIS STATEMENT HAD RECEIVED ANY PRESS PLAY AT ALL UNTIL RECEIPT OF REF. A (PRC ECON REVIEW 5) PARA 8 RPT 8.

3. PRCLO AND JAPANESE EMBASSY HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT TIMM'S STATEMENT WAS MADE AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE. JAPANESE WERE FURTHER INFORMED THAT TIMM'S MOVE DOES NOT INDICATE AN EARLY START OF CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRC.

4. EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO PERSUADE MAGNUSON AND TIMM THAT, WHILE WE SHARE THEIR INTEREST IN AIR SERVICE TO THE PRC, TIMM'S TRAVEL TO THE PRC AT THIS TIME IS NOT LIKELY TO BE APPROVED BY THE CHINESE, AND IS NOT THE APPROACH BEST CALCULATED TO YIELD SATISFACTORY RESULTS OVER THE LONG RUN.

5. FOR PEKING: NO REPLY BY USLO TO TIMM'S LETTER IS NECESSARY UNLESS YOU WISH TO SEND A SIMPLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. KISSINGER

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